The Historian of Hancock County

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi | AUGUST 1994

GENEALOGY FOR AUGUST

Anne Anderson, director of the L. W. Anderson Genealogical Library in Gulfport, who was unable to meet with us last month, will be guest speaker at the August meeting. Her topic is "Getting Started in Genealogy," and she will also discuss the upcoming move of the library to Bay St. Louis.

The luncheon meeting, scheduled for noon on Thursday, August 18, will be held in Benigno's Grocery and Deli on Blaize Avenue across from the railroad station.

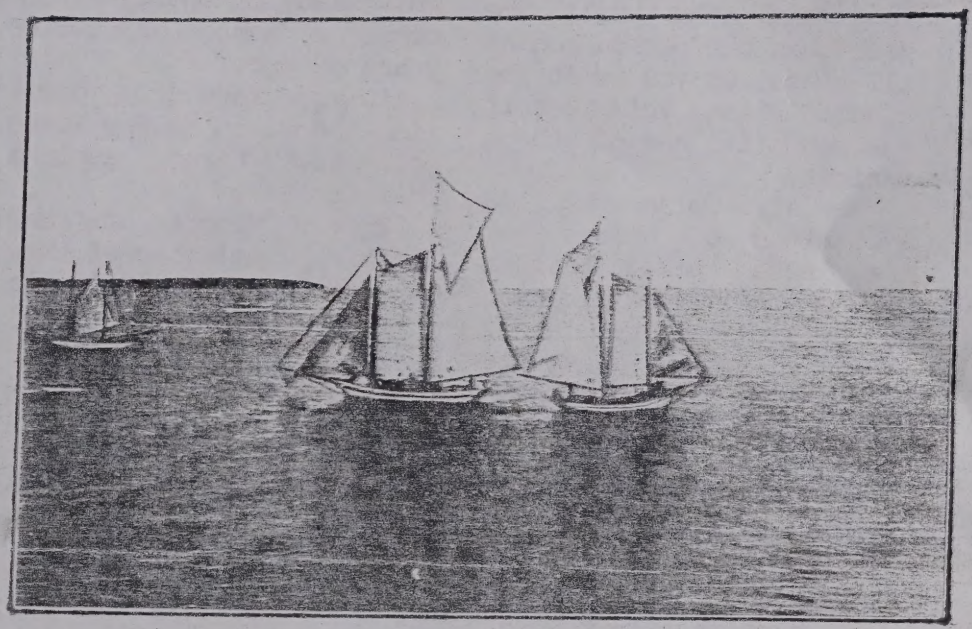
Benigno's, recently restored, occupies a portion of the brick complex constructed in 1919. Its last retail tenant was Bourgeois Bakery, which closed about 10 years ago.

For reservations, at $5.50, call 467-4090.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Historical Society will sponsor the fall Wooden Boat Rendezvous at Casino Magic Marina on October 8th and 9th. As we have mentioned before, this is a wonderful opportunity for us to make a sizeable portion of the

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OYSTER BOATS circa 1908

YELLOW FEVER

1853 - TESTIMONY OF DR. J. M. W. PICTON, BAY ST. LOUIS. His first case at the Bay of St. Louis occurred on July 15, 1853, the second on the 17th.

The first was a resident of New Orleans, the second had just arrived from Nicaragua. Both were taken on board the steamboat from New Orleans on its passage across the Lake. These were the first cases occurring at the Bay of St. Louis.

Previous to this time, intermittents prevailed generally.

The doctor returned to town (presumably New Orleans), and cannot say if the disease spread from these cases.

Dr. Picton thinks the disease communicable from one person to another, wherever the epidemic influence prevails; thinks the disease was imported this year.

The weather at the Bay of St. Louis was warm during the day and rather cool at night during the latter part of August and first of September. Westerly winds prevailed during July and the first of August.

Has never seen a second case of Yellow Fever in the same individual.

(continued on page 2)

(PRESIDENT, FROM PAGE 1)
money we need for our new addition. We need volunteers for numerous jobs for that Saturday and Sunday selling tickets, operating a consignment shop or food and other booths. The shifts are three hours long and there will be more than one person on at all times, so you won't be alone. Please volunteer if you can fill one of these periods.

We also plan to do a tableau of Heroes of the 1800s like Lafitte (bad choice) Gov.Claiborne, Andrew Jackson, Ap Catsby Jones and others. Try out your theatrical talent on this captive audience. They won't likely hoist sail no matter how unconvincing you are. Call 467-4090.

The BIG news this month is that we have a scanner that will work with our machines. When it is in full speed operation, it will receive information from our files, books or papers equal to the input of twenty typists working together. Since we have 102 years of newpapers to copy, plus church records, deeds, wills, estate papers and the like, this will hopefully increase the volume twenty fold.

Those of you who have attended lectures at the Lobrano House this year will surely miss old air-conditioner and its imitations of an approaching train. It has gone to that great junk yard in the sky. Is there a loaner out there to help us through the rest of the summer?

CHARLES GRAY, President

YELLOW FEVER, CONTINUED

Thinks the intemperate are more liable, and the attack more likely to be fatal. Thinks the epidemic ceased from want of subjects. Has seen two cases of recovery from black vomit - one was a white lady of fourteen; the other a negro of twelve years of age.

Always observed a peculiar odor in Yellow Fever patients. First noticed this in 1847.

(From "Report of the Sanitary Commission of New Orleans on the Epidemic Yellow Fever of 1853," 1854.)

"Mail was treated with sulfur bath." (From BAY ST. LOUIS, 100 years,)

1878 - AT BAY ST. LOUIS, one death occurred on August 18, 1878 (DAILY PICAYUNE, Sep. 1, 1878.)

REV. A. B. NICHOLSON, writing from Pearlington, October 23, 1878, said, "Yellow fever has been in the town, ever since the first of August. It has visited this place several times, but has never been an epidemic, in the common acceptation of that word, though it proved fatal in nearly every case, so it has this year. No new cases at this date.

"Business of all kinds has stopped; church matters suspended; Sunday School stopped; our flock scattered - some have crossed the last river, mostly young people.

"Logtown, two miles above here, a small place of not more than two hundred inhabitants, has been awfully scourged by the fever, in fact I question whether any place in the south has suffered more than Logtown, according to its population. While the entire population has been prostrated, the death rate very heavy.

"In that community, we had a new and beautiful church, a respectable congregation, Sunday school and Missionary Society; but alas, how sad today.

"Our steward there, Bro. Robert Carrie, a noble Christian gentleman, was among the first to fall victim to the disease, and none left to take his place.

"The fatality has been in the main among the young people.

"Gainesville is eight miles above Logtown. When I was there last but two cases were reported. The white population is almost gone.

"We quarantined, but too late; the fever was in our midst before we began the work.

"We have a yellow fever doctor with us doing a good work. Nurses have been sent by the Howards.

"Our local physician, Dr. Mead, though born and educated in the north, met the monster face to face, with a moral heroism that entitles him to a great praise.

"We have today a cold north wind."

(From the CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, New Orleans, October 26, 1878.)

CIVIL WAR DAYS - HANCOCK COUNTY AND VICINITY
COMPILED AND EDITED BY CLYDE CUCULLU
MEMBER- HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bay St. Louis, Miss.
June 28, 1961

Hon. J. J. Pettus
Gov. of the State of Mississippi

Dear Sir:

I have just arrived here with my Company, having learned that that there was probable danger of the enemy landing piratical squads in the Coast at this point.

I felt it my duty to proceed at once to this place which I did. I have been in camp ever since the 8th instant and I think we are competent to do service.

I desire if convenient to be mustered into service. I trust your Excellency will recognize my act of coming to this place. I have not sent you a dispatch of my arrival here with my Company.

J. B. DEASON
Capt. Gainesville Vol.

P.S. I can fix up a Boat and take the gun boats of the enemy if I remain here.

FORT PICKENS TO BE CAPTURED BY BALLOONS

A Paris letter has the following:

A legitimate successor of M. Peltevin has gone to Mobile with a series of big and little war balloons, among them two of those which were used with such valuable results for reconnoitering purposes by Napoleon in northern Italy.

He proposes, if the South can accede to his terms, to make Fort Pickens untenable in forty-eight hours, and, by the act of a countryman, who, in 1859, desired to experiment at Cher-bourg, in the water, to capture or destroy any blockading fleet within the radius of five miles.

These parties took with them also a new kind of steam wagon for common roads, and portable rafts for crossing rivers and inlets. Thus you are likely to find the modern improvements introduced on an extensive scale in the horrible episodes of your civil war.

Source: N. O. "Crescent" - Monday, July 15, 1861

REFERENCE ONLY

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Abstract Log of Uss Massachusetts, Comander Melancton Smith, commanding.
June 23,1861 --
At 9 a.m. saw a steamboat (in Mississippi Sound off Ship Island). At 10:30 sent three armed boats to intercept a steamer (Anna). Could not reach her with the guns, and found her to be too fast for the boats (launches).

At 12 m. (mid-day) saw mail steamer Oregon. Fired three shots from pivot gun, five from gunboat, and turned her back.

At 3:30 p.m. steamboat J. D. Swaim (with troops and guns on board for a landing on Ship Island MJS) came within 2 miles. Fired two shots from pivot gun and two shells from main-deck guns. Steamer hauled inshore.

At 6 saw five schooners coming for us.

At 10 schooner Brilliante of _____(Mexican), with flour; schooner Olive Branch of Mobile with turpentine; schooner Three Brothers (Trois Freres) with salt and oats for Mobile; schooner Fanny with railroad iron for Mobile; Basilde (with) brick for Mobile, came up and anchored under our lee.

Were captured by (M.H.)Sawyer, (acting master), C.J. Van Alstine (acting master's mate), and Frank B. Meriam (acting master's mate).

At 10 a steamer came near us. Fired a shot at her from pivot gun. The steamer left.

At 11 got underway (for Pass a l'Outre) and took the schooners in tow.

June 24, 1861
4 to 8 a.m.: Prize schooners in tow.
6 to 8 p.m.: Came to Pass a l'Outre and anchored prizes.
At 8, anchored

June 25 --
At 5:30 p.m. crews board schooners for Key West.
At 8 all the prize schooners got underway and stood out to sea in charge of Lieutenant Selden, assisted by Acting Master M. H. Sawyer.
Source: ORN 27, p. 691

THANKS

- to Dorothea Martin for weeding our garden.

- to Michel Milot for a Canadian Mohawk tomahawk and some 19th century hardware.

- to Dan Young for repairing the air conditioner in the President's room.

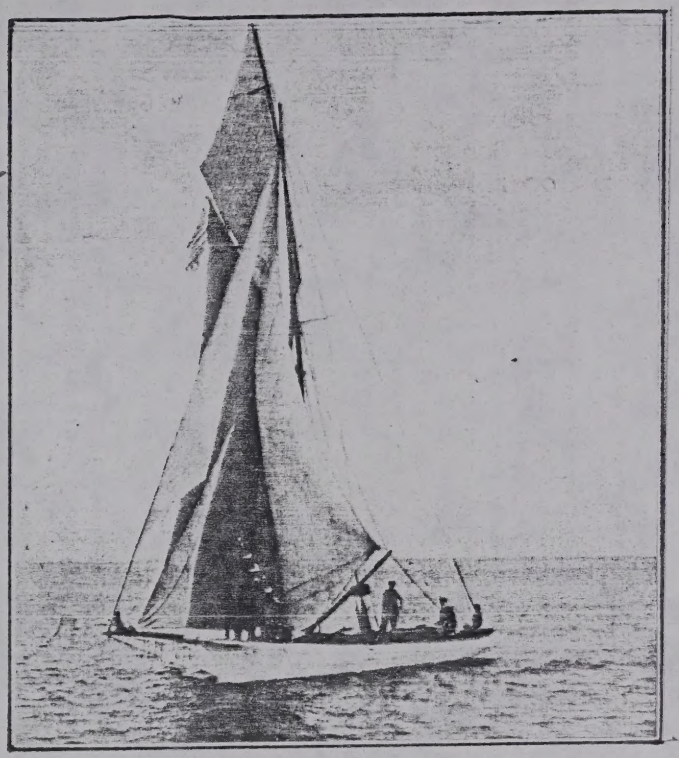
LUNCHEON TREATS

Most of the dishes served at our luncheon meetings have emerged from our members' kitchens. Some of you have been asking for recipes of these lip-smackers. So, by popular demand, here are a couple of recent favorites.

Hawaiian Cake
(By Becky Weston for the Logtown picnic)

2 eggs
1 c. chopped nuts
2 c. sugar
2 c. flour
2 tsp soda
1 can (15 1/2 oz.) crushed pineapple
1 c. chopped nuts
2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 stick softened oleo
1 pkg (8 oz.) cream cheese softened
3/4 c. confectioners' sugar

Combine first five ingredients with 1/2 cup nuts and 1 teaspoon vanilla in bowl. Mix well. Pour into greased and floured pan 9 x 13-inches. Bake at 350-degrees for 35-40 minutes. Combine 1 teaspoon vanilla, 1/2 cup nuts and remaining ingredients in bowl, mixing well. Spread on hot cake.



YACHTING

on

ST. LOUIS BAY

July 1906

ANN BODE'S CHICKEN CASSEROLE

(Prepared for our luncheon at the Garden Center)

Simmer one small whole chicken with onion, celery, salt and pepper in water covering about half of the chicken.

When meat is done and falling off the bones, remove chicken and vegetables from the pot. Chop chicken and add to liquid with one can cream of chicken soup and 1/3 cup chicken broth.

Add one cup cooked rice, half cup of mayonnaise and one can chopped water chestnuts. Mix and test seasoning.

Top with 3 cups crushed cornflakes mixed with 1/2 stick melted buttter.

Bake 45 minutes in 350-degree oven.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteers spent a total of 258 hours in July helping with the myriad of tasks that keep us going.

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

Mon.	8 to 4	Thu.	8 to 4
Tue.	8 to 4	Fri.	2 to 4
Wed.	2 to 4	Sat.	8 to 4

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Hancock County Historical Society

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